

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAHORE 00344 121046Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 DHA-02
MCT-01 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 OPR-02 SCS-03 SCA-01
CU-02 ACDA-07 IO-13 A-01 /098 W
-----121053Z 034439 /22

O R 111330Z APR 77
FM AMCONSUL LAHORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1214
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL KARACHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAHORE 0344

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION IN PUNJAB: MORE VIOLENCE

REF: LAHORE 0337

1. SUMMARY: VIOLENCE ERUPTED IN PUNJAB FOR THE SECOND STRAIGHT DAY (APRIL 10). CONTRARY TO EARLIER REPORT (REFTEL PARA 10) POLICE OPENED FIRE ON OPPOSITION DEMONSTRATORS IN LAHORE AND MULTAN. TWO ARE REPORTED DEAD. SHOOTING ALSO TOOK PLACE IN DERA GHAZI KHAN. HARTALS WERE IMPOSED IN SOME PLACES AND PROCESSION HELD IN OTHERS. GHULAM MUSTAFA KHAR, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE (PML), BROKE LONG SILENCE APRIL 10 AND ISSUED STATEMENT IN LAHORE CONDEMNING GOVERNMENT. CENTRAL ACTION COMMITTEE OF OPPOSITION PAKISTAN NATIONAL ALLIANCE (PNA) MET IN LAHORE EVENING OF APRIL 10 (NAWABZADA NUSRULLAH KHAN PRESIDED) AND REAFFIRMED DETERMINATION TO CARRY ON MOVEMENT AND WIDEN ITS SCOPE. BHUTTO CONTINUES TO STAY IN CITY WHERE IT IS BELIEVED HE HAS MET WITH MAULANA MAUDOODI.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAHORE 00344 121046Z

END SUMMARY.

1. SECURITY SITUATION IN PUNJAB REMAINED TENSE APRIL 10. CONTRARY TO EARLIER REPORTS (REFTEL, PARA 10), VIOLENCE BROKE OUT IN LAHORE AGAIN AND AT OTHER PLACES IN PROVINCE. POLICE OPENED FIRE TO CONTROL PNA DEMONSTRATORS IN LAHORE, KILLING ONE. (APP SOURCE SAID ITEM WAS NOT ALLOWED TO APPEAR

IN PRESS.) CROWD BURNED TWO MORE BANKS AND SET FIRE TO A BUS. FIRE TRUCKS WERE DAMAGED BY DEMONSTRATORS WHEN THEY TRIED TO REACH SCENE. BIGGEST PROCESSION WAS TAKEN OUT IN ANARKALI AREA, WITH SEVERAL SMALLER ONES NEARBY. CLASHES TOOK PLACE AT VARIOUS SPOTS AROUND LAKSHMI CHOWK IN MCLEOD ROAD AREA AND POLICE USED TEAR GAS AND LATHI CHARGES TO BREAK UP DEMONSTRATORS. PNA FUNERAL PRAYER MEETING WENT OFF WITHOUT INCIDENT. OFFICIAL DEATH TOLL AS A RESULT OF VIOLENT DISTURBANCES IN LAHORE APRIL 9 HAS RISEN TO 10, INCLUDING THREE STUDENTS. PNA CLAIMS 37 HAVE DIED, BUT THIS MAY BE A COUNTRYWIDE FIGURE. THE GOVERNMENT DENIES THAT IT HAS RECEIVED ANY COMPLAINTS ABOUT WOMEN MISSING IN AFTERMATH OF DEMONSTRATIONS.

2. ELSEWHERE IN PROVINCE MOST SERIOUS SITUATION OCCURRED IN MULTAN WHERE A YOUNG BOY, POSSIBLY A BYSTANDER, WAS KILLED BY POLICE FIRING. OPPOSITION PROTESTORS SET FIRE TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND POLICE USED TEAR GAS AND LATHI CHARGES TO BREAK THEM UP. PRO-OPPOSITION URDU DAILY NAWA-I-WAQT (APRIL 11) CLAIMS 150,000 DEMONSTRATORS TOOK OUT A PEACEFUL PROCESSION IN LYALLPUR FOLLOWING A FUNERAL PRAYER MEETING. IF SO, THIS IS THE LARGEST PROTEST MARCH PNA HAS MOUNTED SO FAR IN PUNJAB DURING CURRENT MOVEMENT. COMPLETE HARTAL HAS BEEN CALLED IN THAT CITY FOR MONDAY (APRIL 11). GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED PRESS REPORTED APRIL 11 THAT FOUR PERSONS WERE INJURED IN DERA GHAZI KHAN APRIL 10 WHEN A BIG PNA PROCESSION DREW FIRE FROM UNIDENTIFIED SOURCES. POLICE HAD TO INTERVENE TO SEPARATE WARRING FACTIONS. (OTHER GROUP WAS POSSIBLY PRO-PPP.) PNA DEMONSTRATORS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LAHORE 00344 121046Z

BRICKBATTED POLICE AND LOCAL MAGISTRATE FOR THEIR EFFORTS. IN OKARA, A COMPLETE HARTAL WAS REPORTEDLY HELD. FUNERAL PRAYERS FOR PNA DEAD WERE OFFERED BY OPPOSITION SUPPORTERS IN SIALKOT, BAHAWALPUR AND MANY OTHER TOWNS.

3. GHULAM MUSTAFA KHAR, FORMER GOVERNOR OF PUNJAB AND SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF THE PML, ISSUED A STATEMENT IN LAHORE APRIL 10 CONDEMNING RECENT GOVERNMENT ACTIONS. KHAR, WHO HAS NOT BEEN ACTIVE ON THE POLITICAL SCENE FOR MORE THAN YEAR, SAID BULLETS WILL NOT HELP BHUTTO SOLVE PROBLEM AND HE WARNED GOVERNMENT TO BE MINDFUL OF CONSEQUENCES OF FURTHER KILLINGS AND VIOLENCE. HE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE SACRIFICES OF WOMEN, LAWYERS, STUDENTS, ULEMA (RELIGIOUS SCHOLARS), WORKERS AND PEASANTS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED THE OPPOSITION. THE TRUTH, HE SAID, WILL BE HONORED AND THE DAY IS NOT FAR OFF. KHAR DID NOT EXPLAIN WHY HE REFUSED TO ACCEPT A PNA TICKET FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION, BUT HIS STATEMENT HAS CLEARLY ALIGNED HIM ONCE AGAIN WITH THE OPPOSITION.

4. PNA CENTRAL ACTION COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY NAWABZADA NUS-RULLAH KHAN MET APRIL 10 IN LAHORE AND REAFFIRMED OPPOSITION'S INTENTION TO CARRY ON STRUGGLE. MEETING FOLLOWED GATHERING PREVIOUS DAY OF PNA GENERAL COUNCIL WHICH HAD CONSIDERED SITUATION COUNTRYWIDE. ACTION COMMITTEE REPORTEDLY AGREED TO WIDEN SCOPE OF MOVEMENT IN VIEW OF GROWING PUBLIC SUPPORT PNA HAS RECEIVED IN PUNJAB AND ELSEWHERE. A FURTHER MEETING WAS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 11.

5. ARMY UNITS ESTABLISHED CORDON FOR SEVERAL HUNDRED YARDS AROUND MAULANA MAUDOODI'S RESIDENCE IN SUBURBAN LAHORE EVENING OF APRIL 10, WHICH VARIOUS PRESS SOURCES INTERPRET AS MEANING BHUTTO HAD FURTHER TALKS WITH HIM. PM IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN LAHORE OVERNIGHT AS SPECULATION CONTINUES THAT HE IS SEARCHING FOR A WAY TO OPEN DIALOGUE WITH OPPOSITION. SPECULATION MAY BE JUST THAT, AND REAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 LAHORE 00344 121046Z

ACTION SO FAR REMAINS IN THE STREETS.
GAMON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, OPPOSITION PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LAHORE00344
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770126-0483
Format: TEL
From: LAHORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770470/aaaacinb.tel
Line Count: 141
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f0c62fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LAHORE 337
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2845844
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY SITUATION IN PUNJAB: MORE VIOLENCE
TAGS: PINT, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f0c62fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009